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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q80574

Mitsuaki HIROKAWA, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/806,416

Group Art Unit: 1723

Confirmation No.: 2263

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: March 23, 2004

For: SPIRAL SEPARATION MEMBRANE ELEMENT

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified), which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents, other than any U.S. patents and patent publications, is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

Nevertheless, a Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) has been submitted herewith.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicants encloses herewith a copy of a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such documents, together with

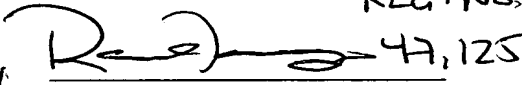
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
U.S. Appl. No.: 10/806,416

an English-language version (if not already included) of at least that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

REG. No.

for Mark Boland
Registration No. 32,197

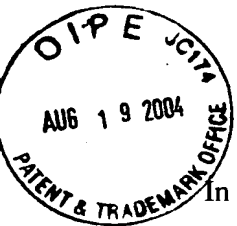
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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: August 19, 2004



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STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.97(e)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

L. Raul Tamayo
Registration No. 47,125

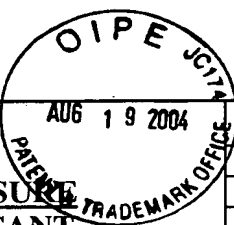
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Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO

Complete if Known

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

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of

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| Application Number | 10/806,416 |
| Confirmation Number | 2263 |
| Filing Date | March 23, 2004 |
| First Named Inventor | Mitsuaki HIROKAWA |
| Art Unit | 1723 |
| Examiner Name | Not Yet Assigned |
| Attorney Docket Number | Q80574 |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| | | Number | Kind Code ² (if known) | | |
| | | US 4,021,351 | | 5/3/1997 | Bray |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | | | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Translation ⁶ |
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| | | Country Code ³ | Number ⁴ | Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | |
| | | WO | 02/051528 | A1 | 7/4/2002 | | English |
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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published. | Translation ⁶ |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------|
| | | XP-002286027, (1997), Springer Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, 7 New York 61573. pp. 109-113 | No |
| | | Patent Abstracts of Japan, 62 057609, (1987) Vol. 0112, No. 51 | |
| | | European Search Report dated July 14, 2004 | |
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| Examiner Signature | Date Considered |
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or follow the hyperlink from the title of the document to the intranet. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.